II.   The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

A. Claims 1-4, 8 and 19

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,462,757 to Kao et al. (hereinafter "Kao"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants are responding under the assumption that the Tabuchi reference is the European Patent Application No. EP 1006454 A2 that was submitted with the Office Action.

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action asserts that Tabuchi teaches an application start (an application to start) one or more specified applications (a plurality of program modules), an application registration portion (clipboard scanning), information relate to start (text string) started applications, (one group brand), an application start information storage portion (data base), information for starting (rec, the name of a musical instrument), a registered application (P_kid.exe\P_young.exe), an application group start portion for searching (a hyperlink and brand cell), an enter symbol (symbol), one or more corresponding application (P_kid.exe\P_young.exe). The Office Action admits that Tabuchi does not explicitly teach the term registering. However, the Office Action asserts that Kao makes up for this deficiency. The Office Action asserts that Kao teaches command ... entered (col. 4 lines 1-44).

The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Kao to Tabuchi in order to locate an application running within the respective window based on the requests containing user specified search criteria. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of Tabuchi and Kao fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 8 and 19.

Tabuchi discloses a method for a computer to perform an operation associated with data on a display device and chosen by a user. Tabuchi discloses a database containing a list of data and a list of program names associated with the data. Upon receiving data, Tabuchi searches said database for the received data, acquires the name of the program associated with the received data, and starts the program.

The invention disclosed in Tabuchi writes data onto a clipboard, but does not register information relating to applications and does not treat information related to applications as one group. Tabuchi discloses starting the program associated with the received data, but does not start a group of applications. The invention disclosed in Tabuchi can start a specific application upon being provided with specific data, but cannot change the application nor start plural applications at the same time.

However, the claimed invention comprises at least two functions, namely registering applications and starting applications. Tabuchi does not disclose registering applications.

According to the claimed invention, registering applications is implemented by the method comprising: "an application start step for starting one or more specified applications; an application registration step of registering information relating to started applications as one group; an application start information storage step of storing information for starting a registered application ... " (claim 8). According to the claimed invention, starting applications is implemented by the method comprising: an application group start step of searching application start information that has been stored based on an entered symbol and starting one or more corresponding applications" (claim 8). According to the claimed invention, the type of applications to be started and the combination of the applications to be started can be arbitrarily selected. Also, it is possible to start plural applications at the same time by the entry of one symbol.

Tabuchi discloses a method of associating one data with specific application software, whereas the present invention registers applications a one group, and starts one or plural applications by group at the same time. Kao does not made up for the deficiencies of Tabuchi.

Kao discloses registering commands, but does not disclose registering applications as one group.

Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 that claims 2-4 are allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 8 and 19 is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 5-7, 14, 16-18, and 20-22

The Office Action rejects claims 5-7, 14, 16-18, 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabuchi in view of Kao and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,090 to Clark et al. (hereinafter "Clark"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claim 5, the Office Action admits that Tabuchi does not explicitly teach "the drape/drop file, option switch." However, the Office Action asserts that Clark makes up for this deficiency. The Office Action asserts that Clark teaches drape/drop (col. 4, lines 1-15, col. 17, lines 30-48, col. 19, lines 40-67-col. 20, lines 40-56, switch col. 13-14).

The Office Action further asserts that it would have been obvious to apply the teachings of Clark to Tabuchi in order to provide fully satisfactory performance for a broad range of applications programs.

Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 5 departs from claim 1, that claim 5 is allowable at least for the reason stated regarding claim 1.

Regarding claim 20, the Office Action asserts that further to the rejection of claim 1, Tabuchi teaches a processing portion (a central processing unit), a graphics memory (system

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memory), a plurality of screens (window), a control screen display portion (a DSF information section). However, the Office Action admits that Tabuchi does not explicitly teach a plurality of display portions control screen. However, the Office Action asserts that Clark makes up for this deficiency. The Office Action asserts that Clark teaches monitors 98-104, window handle (col. 19, lines 59-67-col. 20, lines 40-65.)

The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to apply the teaching of Clark to Tabuchi in order to provide mapping various area of the operating desktop to particular monitors without regard to border effect such as window partition.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination of Tabuchi, Kao and Clark fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 20. Specifically, as discussed above regarding claim 1, Tabuchi fails to disclose or suggest the feature of an application registration portion for registering information relating to started applications as one group as recited in claim 20.

Tabuchi merely teaches writing data onto a clipboard but does not teach or suggest the registering of information related to applications and does not treat information related to applications as one group. In addition, Tabuchi merely starts the program associated with the received data but does not start a group of applications.

Further, Tabuchi can start a specific application upon being provided with specific data, but cannot change the application or start plural applications at the same time.

In addition to the discussion of Tabuchi and Kao *supra*, the Applicants respectfully submit that Clark fails to make up for the deficiencies of Tabuchi and Kao.

Clark discloses a desktop manager for optimal positioning of windows corresponding to the display area of a display device. However, Clark does not disclose registering applications a one group, and starting one or plural applications by group at the same time.

Clark discloses opening a plurality of common application windows at the same time. However, Clark does not disclose a control sub-screen for displaying an application sub-screen and an application start screen for starting an application (claim 9 of the present application).

Clark does not disclose the concept of controlling another screen <u>through a control sub-screen</u> as recited n claim 20.

Regarding claim 6, Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 6 depends from claim 5 that claim 6 is allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 5.

Regarding claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 7 depends from claim 1 that claim 7 is allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 1.

Regarding claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 14 depends from claim 9 that claim 14 is allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 9 *infra*.

Regarding claims 16-18, Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 16-18 depend from claim 9 that these claims are allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 9 *infra*.

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Applicants respectfully submit that since these claims depend from claim 20 that these claims are allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 20.

C. Claims 9-13 and 15

The Office Action rejects claims 9-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Tabuchi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claim 9, the Office Action asserts that Clark teaches a control portion (desktop manager) col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 18-67, col. 8, lines 53-67, a control subscreen (one or more windows/the display) 108, col. 19, lines 50-67-col. 20, lines 40-65), an application start screen (various applications) col. 20, lines 40-65, an application software (the birds eye view function), col. 19, lines 40-67-col. 20, lines 40-65, a window col. 19,

lines 40-65, col. 20, lines 1-65, an application screen (new window position), col. 20,

lines 40-65, a predetermined size (the new position), col. 20, lines 40-65, an application

subscreen (window handle) col. 19, lines 40-67-col. 20, lines 40-65, a user col. 4, lines 53-67-

col. 5, lines 1-10/col. 10, lines 1-67/col. 20, lines 40-65, the size/the position (maximization

options) col. 5, lines 1-10/the size/position, col. 22, lines 10-30/position, col. 20, lines 40-65,

the entire display range (a monitor border), col. 11, lines 35-46, registry col. 22, lines 9-30,

parameter (input ... assigned function) col. 4, lines 15-25/message col. 3, lines 52-67/col. 19,

lines 40-67, windows of the application col. 40-67.

However, the Office Action admits that Clark is not explicitly teaching name to an

application group. However, the Office Action asserts that Tabuchi makes up for this

deficiency. The Office Action asserts that Tabuchi teaches the name of a musical

instrument ... and the name of the program module. The Applicants respectfully submit that

the cited combination of Clark and Tabuchi fails to disclose or suggest all of the features

recited in claim 9.

Neither Clark nor Tabuchi recites the feature of a control subscreen. Specifically, the

cited combination of Clark and Tabuchi fails to disclose or teach the feature whereas a step of

starting an application software and a window of that control portion and displaying an

application screen of a predetermined size, and displaying an application subscreen in the

control subscreen, as recited in claim 9.

The Applicants respectfully submit that since claims 10-13 and 15 depend from

claim 9 that these claims are allowable at least for the reasons stated regarding claim 9.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-13 and 15 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:DB/tbh

Attachment:
    Claim for Priority w/stamped receipt

Date: February 24, 2004

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